

TOWN OF ACTON
SIDEWALK COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes of March 11, 2009

7:00 p.m.

Acton Memorial Library Conference Room

Next Committee Meeting: Wednesday, April 15, 2009, 7:00 p.m. Acton Memorial Library, downstairs meeting room.

Present: Bettina Abe, Dick Calandrella, Sytske Campbell, Kate Chung, Pam Cochrane, Steve Evans, Leslie Hogan, Celia Kent, Paulina Knibbe

Acton citizen Dana Snyder-Grant attended the meeting.

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Procedural Matters

The Committee accepted the Minutes from the February 11, 2009 meeting as amended.

Status report on priority sidewalks

- **Lower Prospect Street** – Bruce Stamski was able to secure an easement from the resident on Lower Prospect whose property includes a tree located where a sidewalk would be placed. The easement will allow the sidewalk to go around the tree, onto a portion of the resident's front yard.
- The resident of 54 Prospect is not willing to discuss or give up more than five feet of property for a sidewalk. Resident would like the Town to pay for a surveyor to determine where the town and residential property meet.
- **Central Street**—This sidewalk is ready to be paved in April. The committee took a vote to determine whether the town would use asphalt or concrete for the section from Summer Street to the 40B property. In light of the current economic situation, the Committee made a motion to use asphalt.
 - **Action item:** Paulina Knibbe will send an e-mail to Bruce Stamski indicating that the Committee agrees with the current Town plans for asphalt for this sidewalk section.
- **High Street**—The section of #30-46 High Street is ready to have a sidewalk installed. The Town is deciding on the structural material to use for the retaining wall across the front of the properties.
- **Main Street (Post Office Sq. to 2A)**—Main Street sidewalk easement will appear again on this year's Town Meeting Warrant (April 6) in a single article along with Prospect Street and High Street. No easements are required for Central and Great Road).

- **Great Road** – Before installing a sidewalk on the Great Road section (Davis Road to Rt. 27), Acton must obtain a right to survey from the State and will survey the area when the weather permits.

Revisioning Acton –Leslie Hogan is working with Ann Sussman who is coordinating a Walkability Project for Acton. This hands-on workshop, funded by the Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council and the Discovery Museum, will allow youth and adults to build a scale model of how a walk-able Acton might look. Bettina Abe and Sytske Campbell volunteered as representatives of the Sidewalk Committee to help with the project.

- **Action item:** Leslie Hogan will let Ann Sussman know that Bettina and Sytske volunteered their help for this project.

High Street Abutter Project—Sytske drafted a letter by two High Street residents in support of a High Street sidewalk (#77 to Parker Street) and High Street residents signing the Right of Entry agreement allowing the Town to survey properties. The draft was approved by the residents and emailed to Committee members. The Committee suggested a few revisions. Paulina revised a letter from the Committee that will accompany the letter from residents and the Right of Entry agreement and emailed it to Committee. In April, Sytske will send out this package to all abutters.

- **Action item:** Sytske will email a final draft of both letters for Committee to review.
- **Action item:** Leslie Hogan will send a list of current residents and addresses of all abutters to this High Street section.

Town Meeting flyer—The Committee reviewed a flyer developed by Kate Chung regarding easements needed for sidewalk construction that will be distributed before and during the April Town Meeting. The Committee suggested some revisions. Committee also discussed how best to distribute the flyer to Acton residents to promote their participation in Town Meeting and support of the sidewalks.

- **Action item:** Paulina Knibbe will email Kate the appropriate article numbers for the flyer.
- **Action item:** Kate will revise flyer and distribute to Committee.
- **Action item:** Members will distribute flyer to their lists of contacts.

Crosswalk near Hosmer House

- **Action item:** Pam Cochrane will email Bruce Stamski to determine the Town plans for a crosswalk on Main Street (Route 27) from the area close to the Hosmer House to the Dunkin' Donuts shopping plaza.

Site Plans

- **59 Great Road**—Paulina reviewed the plan for this address which calls for an Italian restaurant with outdoor patios and a streetscape design. A sidewalk already exists in front of this property.
- **Wetherbee Plaza** – There is no action for the Wetherbee Plaza at this time.

Design Guidelines

- Celia Kent presented revised design guidelines for sidewalk development. Committee discussed the inclusion of pervious materials for sidewalk use. Committee determined it would be best to recommend a website and/or a document to refer to for disability regulations.
 - **Action item:** Celia will meet with Ann Sussman of the Design Review Board to review the document. She hopes to have a final draft for the April meeting.
 - **Action item:** Sytske will research appropriate web sites and documents as reference for disability access regulations and forward that to Celia.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sytske Campbell